



NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ALLIANCE MEETING

Salisbury Community Appearance Commission

Thursday, April 30, 2009

4 p.m.

One Water Street

MINUTES

In attendance: Greta Connor, Chair; Connie Baker, Maggie Blackwell, Dorothy Campbell, Sarah Hawkins, Almeader Holt, Mimi Howard, Johnny Leach, Lou Manning, Sue McHugh, Sean Meyers, Franklin Mills, Sr., Barbara Perry, Lorraine Reibba, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, Missy Shives, Barbara Sorel, Pat Sylvester,

City Staff: Chris Branham, Kathryn Clifton, Ann Cooper, Diana Moghrabi, Lynn Raker

Neighborhoods Represented: Brooklyn South Square, Downtown, Ellis Street Graded School District, Fulton Heights, Green Hills, North Main, Milford Hills, Meadowbrook, Milford Knoll, Park Avenue, Sedgfield Acres, West End, and West Square

The meeting began with some refreshment and greeting time. CAC Neighborhoods and Education Committee Chair Greta Connor opened the meeting and asked each person to introduce him-or herself, and state his or her neighborhood.

CENSUS

Kathryn Clifton (Kat) of the Salisbury GIS Division introduced the upcoming census project. April 1 2010 is census day. This year they are embarking on an educational campaign.

- A census taker will stop at your address to ask a few questions if you do not fill out a survey (seven questions).
- The numbers help determine funding in your district.
- There will be some upcoming events.
- There will be some part time job opportunities. You can visit the City Web site at http://www.salisburync.gov/pdf/2010CensusJobOpportunities12_30_08.pdf

CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Chris Branham, Code Services Manager, offered an example of the SNAG report given to neighborhood residents at the Salisbury Police Department at their monthly meeting. Audrey Johnson of the Salisbury Police Department is the contact if you are interested in attending a SNAG meeting. Meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Branham said their department was issuing 100 citations a day for grass that needs cutting. (Salisbury has seen plentiful rain lately.)

He made available complaint forms and his business card. Please contact Chris Branham about any nuisance or ordinance problems in your neighborhood. He can be reached at 704-216-7564. Chris will be happy to speak at your neighborhood association meeting.

SPRING SPRUCE UP

Public Services picked up 78 appliances, 265 tires without rims, and one piano during Spring Spruce Up. Solid Waste Division picked up an extra 14 tons of trash for Spring Spruce Up week.

NEIGHBORHOOD STRENGTHENING

Doug Paris, Assistant to the City Manager, facilitated an exercise to help the NLA develop guidelines for creating more effective neighborhood associations. Questions were given to three groups to discuss.

Examples of strong neighborhoods include, but are not limited to, Fulton Heights, Milford Knoll, Sedgefield Acres, Park Avenue, and West Square.

Ann Cooper said that there are a dozen Neighborhood Watch Groups in town. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch, please contact Ann Cooper at the Salisbury Police Department at 704-638-4463.

What do successful neighborhoods have?

- Community pride
- Homeownership
- Strong leadership/people who can invest the time
- Good communications
 - Email
 - Newsletters
 - Flyer delivery
 - Block captains
 - Web site

Park Avenue said that they provide a number of neighborhood services that include after school enrichment.

- Park Avenue sponsors VITA—income tax preparation service
- An annual Christmas party
- A number of social events
- Community Watch
- They have a Board that meets monthly
- They formed a 501 (c) (3)
- There is police visibility in the neighborhood

If you do not have a meeting space like Park Avenue does, check out meeting at the Rowan Public Library, a local church, a City-owned center, restaurants or even the Salisbury Police Department.

Stable housing is needed; there are too many neglected rental properties. Check with Salisbury Community Development about their programs to aid low-income homeowners. <http://www.salisburycdc.org/>

Funds

Fulton Heights said they have a fee of \$15 a year to be a member of their association. They maintain a low-cost Web site to keep information current.

West Square sent a letter to every homeowner. They just had a neighborhood spruce up and a yard sale that raised \$2,000.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Top ten things a new neighborhood needs to do to be a strong neighborhood.

1. Invite all residents to a meeting
 2. Identify the leaders/Have the right people in leadership
 3. Identify problems
 4. Identify assets/resources
 - a. Historic preservation grants
 - b. CDBG funds
 - c. Other grants
 5. Set goals and expedite them
 6. Define mission
 7. Determine a meeting place
 8. Communications
 9. Models for best practices
 10. Brainstorm
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1. Neighborhoods should avoid cliques and remain neutral
 2. Identify the area
 3. Rise from need
 4. Meet consistently and often
 5. Use the opportunity to gather
 6. Give everyone a voice and responsibility
 7. Form a community watch
 8. Have good relationship with local police
 9. Make door to door introductions
 10. Run ads in the paper

Other ideas from neighborhoods included providing dinners for a month for new parents, ...

The results of the facilitated session will be used to develop a brochure and online guide for creating new or improving existing neighborhood associations. Other goals may include leadership training for neighborhood leaders and a grant program to help get neighborhood associations off the ground and running effectively.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Connor adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.